

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method executed by a NAS communication loss detector agent on a computing system, providing robustness to an accounting function of user sessions established by at least one NAS in an IP network without a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent, the IP network having a plurality of NASs, the accounting function being performed on a RADIUS server storing an ID, IP address and secret code for each of the at least one NAS and information identifying each established session, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying for the RADIUS server, the NAS communication loss detector agent as a RADIUS client of the RADIUS server,

repeatedly polling from the NAS communication loss detector agent the at least one NAS and, if no answer is received from at least one non-responding NAS after a predetermined period of time and a predetermined number of repeated pollings, sending from the NAS communication loss detector agent a RADIUS stop accounting request to the RADIUS server for all sessions established by the at least one non-responding NAS, and

if an answer is received from at least one NAS before the predetermined period of time and the predetermined number of repeated pollings, repeatedly polling from the NAS communication loss detector agent a second NAS different from the at least one NAS.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying step comprises the step of storing the ID, the IP address and the secret code of the NAS communication loss detector agent.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polling step comprises the step of waiting for an expiration of a timer which is a first parameter defined during an installation of the NAS communication loss detector agent.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the polling step is repeated n times, n being an integer defined at an installation of the NAS communication loss detector agent.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the polling step and the sending step further comprise a step of reading a table owned by the RADIUS server containing one entry per established session and, for each entry, information to identify the at least one NAS and prepare parameters for the RADIUS stop accounting request.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the sending step comprises a preliminary step, after reading the established session table, of, including as parameters of the RADIUS stop accounting request: accounting status, accounting session time, a NAS identifier; a session identifier and an authenticator.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

computing the accounting session time by subtracting the session start time read in the established session table from a current computing system timestamp; and,

computing the authenticator as a function of the secret code read with the ID and the IP address stored for the corresponding NAS.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled).